

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 14-15, 18-20 and 22-27 were examined. Claims 23-27 are canceled.  
Claims 1-6, 8, 14-15, 18-20 and 22 remain in the Application.

In a telephone conference with the Examiner on April 10, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the pending claims were allowable over the prior art of record. The Patent Office maintains its rejection of claims 23-27. Claims 23-27 are canceled thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance.

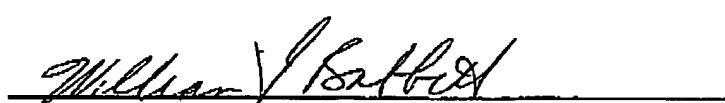
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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W. Thomas Babbitt, Reg. No. 39,591

12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
Telephone (310) 207-3800  
Facsimile (310) 820-5988

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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